

Humour Beyond Borders: A Comparison of Selected Stories by P. G. Wodehouse and Shibram Chakraborty

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Contents

- Introduction
- Definition
- Theories and its examples
 - Superiority Theory
 - Incongruity Theory
 - Relief Theory
 - Ambivalence Theory
- Conclusion



Introduction

- Literary theory on humour
- humour” was not used until the 18th century
- Plato, Sophocles, Aristotle, and Cicero
- The theories of humour -- incongruity, superiority, relief and ambivalence by the theorists like Sully, Munro, Bergson, Kant and Freud
- P. G. Wodehouse’s (1881-1975)
- Shibram Chakraborty (1903–1980) in Bengali literature
- Compare some of the short stories of the two authors.

- **Definition of Humour**

- something positive or socially desirable (Martin 1)
- something mechanical encrusted on the living." (Bergson 29)



	Theories	Meaning of the Theories	Wodehouse's Story	Chakraborty's Story
1.	Superiority	Feelings of superiority over other people because they have some failing or defect	"Indian Summer of an Uncle"	"Gonf Niye Tanatani" (A Tug of War with a Moustache)
2.	Incongruity	We expect one thing and another is said--our own disappointed expectation makes us laugh."	"The Episode of the Dog McIntosh"	"Nikunj Kakur Golpo" (Uncle Nikunj's Story)
3.	Relief	"We expend a large packet of energy to understand something large and a small packet of energy to understand something small.	"The Ordeal of Young Tuppy"	"Patravahak" (The Carrier of a Letter)
4.	Ambivalence	a mingling of attraction and repulsion	"Jeeves and the Song of Songs"	"Rinan Kritwa" (Clearing Dues)

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Conclusion

- A comparison of Wodehouse and Chakraborty through Sage Bharata Humour Theory (*Hasya Rasa*)
- Wodehouse's incongruous situations
- Chakraborty's puns
- Wodehouse's characters-elite
- Chakraborty's characters –commonplace, middle-class Bengali households
- Seamlessly woven humour



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